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5 March 1998

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 98 (*f*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/629/Add.6)*]

52/202. Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/116 of 20 December 1995 and 51/183 of 16 December 1996 on and related to the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held at Bridgetown, Barbados, from 25 April to 6 May 1994,

Convinced that small island developing States are particularly vulnerable to the potential effects of global climate change and sea-level rise, and that tropical storms, the El Niño phenomenon and drought have resulted in the inundation of some islands and have caused serious loss of resources in their exclusive economic zones, economic infrastructure, human settlements and culture,

Reaffirming the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session held from 23 to 28 June 1997[1] and resolution 5/1 adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, held from 7 to 25 April 1997,[2]

[1] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 9* (E/1997/29), chap. I.

Reaffirming also the decision taken at its nineteenth special session[3] to convene a two-day special session, preceding its fifty-fourth session, for the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[5] and welcomes in particular the action that has been taken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to support the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the action of the Secretary-General to restructure the Small Island Developing States Unit within the above-mentioned Department in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 49/122 of 19 December 1994 and 51/183 and his proposal to suitably strengthen the Unit;[6]

3. *Appreciates* the support that has been provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development in following up the implementation of the Programme of Action in accordance with resolution 49/122 and the Programme of Action itself, and welcomes the multi-year programme of work for the Commission on Sustainable Development, 1998-2002, as adopted by the Assembly at its nineteenth special session,[7] pursuant to which the Commission will, *inter alia*, review the outstanding chapters of the Programme of Action;

4. *Decides* to invite States members of the specialized agencies that are not members of the United Nations to participate in the two-day special session for the review and appraisal of the Barbados Programme of Action, and in the preparatory meetings therefor in the capacity of observers;

5. *Welcomes* the progress made by the United Nations Development Programme in implementing resolution 49/122, invites the Programme to continue to implement all the provisions of the technical assistance programme, known as SIDSTAP, and the small island developing States information network, known as SIDSNET, and welcomes the regional and subregional efforts by small island developing States that have enabled the commencement of the implementation of both programmes;

6. *Also welcomes* the actions taken by the regional commissions and organizations in support of activities related to the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development continues to have the strengthened capacity to carry out, in accordance with its mandate, the research and analysis necessary to complement the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs with respect to the implementation of the Programme of Action, and in that context notes with satisfaction the strengthening of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries as reflected in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General, following the recent restructuring of the Conference;[6]

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[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex, para. 71.

[4] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] A/52/319.

[6] Ibid., para. 20.

[7] Resolution S-19/2, annex, appendix.

8. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to continue to take the necessary actions for effective follow-up to the Barbados Programme of Action, including action to ensure the provision of the means of implementation under chapter XV thereof, the commitments and recommendations that were made at the Global Conference, and the modalities that it adopted for the full and comprehensive review of the Programme of Action;

9. *Takes note with appreciation* of modalities that have been instituted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, to mobilize resources, including technical capacity for small island developing States, with respect to the further implementation of the Programme of Action, and in that regard requests the Secretary-General to implement fully the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 51/183 and 51/185 of 16 December 1996;

10. *Calls upon* the bilateral and multilateral donor communities to mobilize adequate financial resources to supplement efforts by small island developing States, at both the national and the regional levels, in the implementation of the programmes referred to in paragraph 5 above, including support to existing regional and subregional institutions;

11. *Welcomes* the action taken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, as regards a meeting between representatives of small island developing States and prospective bilateral and multilateral donors, and stresses the need for further collaboration among small island developing States and agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to facilitate preparation of project portfolios;[8]

12. *Requests* the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, in cooperation with the international community, to enhance efforts in respect of coordination activities within the United Nations system and to strengthen national and regional partnerships for a disaster reduction strategy for the twenty-first century,[9] including requirements for effective disaster reduction and prevention capacities and measures for small island developing States in line with resolution 51/183;

13. *Urges* the international donor community, including international financial institutions, to support adaptation efforts by small island developing States to cope with the threatening sea-level rise that may be experienced as a consequence of the impact of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere;

14. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its operational strategy, and invites it, in accordance with relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[10] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[11] and the decisions of its Council, to support further the objectives of the Barbados Programme of Action;

15. *Notes* the progress in the development and compilation of a vulnerability index for small island developing States, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations, and invites all relevant actors to continue to support the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on further work in refining the index, as necessary;[12]

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[8] A/52/319, paras. 8-10.

[9] Ibid., para. 14.

[10] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[11] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[12] A/52/319, paras. 3-7.

16. *Invites* the Commission on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, and the World Tourism Organization, to develop urgently strategies with existing national, regional and subregional tourism organizations in small island developing States to further facilitate sustainable tourism development as an essential element towards an action-oriented international programme of work on sustainable tourism;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on actions taken to implement the present resolution and paragraph 10 of Assembly resolution 50/116 of 20 December 1995.

77th plenary meeting
18 December 1997

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A/RES/52/203
5 March 1998

Fifty-second session
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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/630)*]

52/203. Operational activities for development of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989, 47/199 of 22 December 1992, 50/120 of 20 December 1995 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/59 of 24 July 1997 and other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming that operational activities for development within the United Nations system have a critical and unique role to play in enabling developing countries to continue to take a lead in the management of their own development process and that the funds and programmes constitute important vehicles for advancing international development cooperation,

Recalling that the General Assembly is the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policy matters relating to the economic, social and related fields, in accordance with Chapter IX of the Charter of the United Nations, and that the functions and powers of the Economic and Social Council are provided for in Chapters IX and X of the Charter and are elaborated in relevant Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 48/162 of 20 December 1993, in which the Assembly defined the relationship between the Assembly, the Council and the executive boards of the funds and programmes, in particular the Council function of overall guidance and coordination of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Stressing that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, *inter alia*, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of the developing countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Recognizing the need to take into account the individual mandates and complementarities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system, and the priorities agreed upon in the executive boards of the funds and programmes,

Expressing serious concern at the persistent insufficiency of resources for operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in particular the decline in contributions to core resources,

Recognizing the need for priority allocation for scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries,

Recognizing also that the United Nations development system should take into account the specific needs and requirements of the countries with economies in transition,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on funding modalities of operational activities,[1] as requested by the Economic and Social Council;

2. *Strongly reaffirms* the need for a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries;

3. *Stresses* the need for a continuous overall improvement in the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the United Nations system in delivering its development assistance, and welcomes steps that have been taken towards that end;

4. *Also stresses* that other countries that are in a position to do so should strive to augment their assistance in the framework of development cooperation;

5. *Recalls* that the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, in accordance with resolution 50/227, should initiate work on reviewing their funding policies and strategies with a view to meeting their agreed targets, particularly of core resources as the main source of funding of operational activities;

6. *Calls upon* the governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the World Food Programme to adopt a specific and achievable target for core resources for the period 1999-2001, taking into account the relationship between their programme arrangements and financial plans;

7. *Urges* the executive boards to complete the review as soon as possible and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998;

8. *Acknowledges* the supplementary role of non-core resources in enhancing the financing of the United Nations operational activities for development;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when presenting his comprehensive report on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, to consider the implications of steps adopted by the United Nations system to implement reform initiatives on operational activities, and to make recommendations for their effective and expeditious implementation, bearing in mind the views of Member States;

10. *Also requests* the funds and programmes, in their regular reporting on the triennial policy review to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, to include in their reports, to the extent possible and in a clearly identifiable way, actions taken to implement adopted reform measures of the Secretary-General, including an analysis of the implications of those reforms for operational activities as well as for inter-agency coordination;

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[1] A/52/431.

11. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Secretariat to seek information from Member States on all issues to be considered by the triennial policy review, invites Member States to actively participate in that important data-collection exercise, including through timely completion of the relevant questionnaire, and to the extent needed requests the resident coordinators to facilitate its successful implementation;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of its resolution 50/120, as well as subsequent relevant decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in the context of the triennial policy review, and to make appropriate recommendations.

77th plenary meeting
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